

TITLE: Reaction Paper**TOPIC:** All topics**GRADE LEVEL:** 4-12**CONTENT STANDARD:** All standards**CONTENT OBJECTIVE:** To encourage students to read and comprehend news articles about science topics. Provides a means of familiarizing students with either the library, the internet, or various science magazines the teacher may provide.**TIME REQUIRED:** 20-30 minutes, homework assignment**MATERIALS NEEDED:** Attached student pages**DIRECTIONS FOR INSTRUCTION/ACTIVITY:**

Assign the following student pages as homework or take a trip to the library during class. Direct the students to read and answer all boxes on the sheet on a recent article concerning a limited topic. For example, for my class titled Earth, Energy and the Environment, I tell students I will only accept articles about newsworthy topics on earth science, energy or the environment. I will not accept articles on biology! For a biology class, the opposite can apply.

The teacher can assign as homework, take the students to the library, or do this in class after gathering recent magazines such as ScienceNews, Discover, or the science section of your local newspaper. I generally do not allow articles more than 6 months old. The world wide web can also be used, but the date and source of the article must be carefully noted by the student.

Once you do a few of these as assignments, it also makes a good extra credit assignment, and students will often ask me for a couple of sheets before the weekend! The teacher can tailor this assignment to fit their needs in each of their classes.

EVALUATION: Evaluating these papers is an excellent way to keep up with recent articles that you, as a busy teacher, haven't had time to read! I always enjoy grading reaction papers more than any other assignment. And when students ask "do we have to use complete sentences?" the answer is a resounding YES! It is wise to make it a point to correct spelling and grammar as a part of the overall score. I also factor in to the score the length and appropriateness of the article. Students should be reminded it is wise to choose an article that has some personal interest or value to them, so that they can more easily answer the "What is the relevance to you?" section. For the "What could you do?" section (an answer IS mandatory), encourage them to think of this as not what they have to do, but what they could do if they felt so inclined.

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Reaction Paper

Name: _____

Due Date or Extra Credit? _____

Publication article is in: _____

Author: _____ Date of Article _____

Title of Article: _____

SYNOPSIS OF ARTICLE:

WHY IS THIS ARTICLE NEWSWORTHY?

WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE TO YOU?

WHAT COULD YOU DO NOW?